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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

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PROSPECTS FOR ORANGES, MANDARINS AND GRAPEFRUIT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

The 1931-32 production of oranges and mandarins in important producing countries of the Mediterranean Basin is now forecast at 49,800,000 boxes of 70 pounds, according to a communication from L. D. Mallory, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner at Marseille. This represents an increase of 2,600,000 boxes compared with indications of three months ago. The present forecast is also above the 45,041,000 boxes harvested during the 1930-31 season, the increase being largely due to better crops in Spain and Palestine. The production in Italy and Algeria, however, is expected to be under that of last season.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN: Estimated production of oranges
and mandarins, 1930-31 and 1931-32
(boxes of 70 pounds)

Country	1930-31	1931-32
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>forecast</u>
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
Spain a/.....	32,000,000 b/	37,000,000
Italy a/.....	8,502,000	7,600,000
Algeria a/.....	2,072,000	1,700,000
Palestine.....	2,467,000 c/	3,500,000 d/
Total.....	45,041,000	49,800,000

a/ Mandarins included. b/ Harvested only - production 36,500,000 boxes.
c/ Exports. d/ Available for export.

Spain: The forecast of total production of oranges and mandarins in Spain has been raised to 37,000,000 boxes. Early season prospects were that a large amount of fruit would be produced but that sizes would be small as the supply of gravity water for irrigation was short. During the fall months, however, the situation in regard to moisture improved, and of late intermittent showers have proved beneficial. While the size of fruit is still below normal a fairly good crop is expected. At the present time damage from frost and from a hail storm which occurred during the third week of December has become apparent. The loss is estimated to be not less than 10 per cent, principally caused by hail. According to present indications the quantity of fruit available for harvest this season is 37,000,000 boxes of which approximately 28,000,000 may be exported. The production of last season was 36,500,000 boxes (32,000,000 harvested) and 42,727,000 in 1929-1930.

Seasonal exports to December 19 as shown in the following tables are about equal to those of last year to the same date. Exports by water from Valencia are under those of 1930 but are made up in total by larger quantities moving by water from other ports and by rail. Of the fruit moving out from Valencia it may be seen that Holland has so far imported consider-

ably less this year than last and the United Kingdom slightly less, but takings by other countries have been generally heavier. The poor financial condition of many importing countries is, in a considerable measure, made up by the low value of the peseta. The internal price structure of Spain has not as yet become adjusted to the exchange value of the peseta, which fact is facilitating the export trade.

SPAIN: Orange exports from Valencia District 1929-30 to 1931-32 a/

Country	Crop year totals		Seasonal to December 19	
	1929-30	1930-31	1930-31	1931-32
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
United Kingdom.....	11,427,707	8,093,611	2,306,019	2,270,017
Ireland.....	<u>b/</u>	<u>b/</u>	22,062	19,691
Germany.....	4,750,617	3,233,899	854,526	924,810
Denmark.....	180,174	164,439	68,138	73,806
Holland.....	3,561,137	3,209,753	819,531	697,138
Belgium.....	1,066,046	1,064,758	282,693	316,360
Sweden.....	179,141	194,768	129,996	111,114
Norway.....	233,763	271,093	118,570	100,951
Finland.....	12,450	4,117	1,130	3,321
Yugoslavia.....	-	17,993	5,338	14,444
Italy.....	-	-	-	-
Canada.....	1,611	-	-	-
Total.....	21,412,646	16,354,431	4,608,002	4,531,651

Converted from quintals to boxes of 70 pounds. :

a/ Mandarins are included in the above figures. b/ Included with United Kingdom.

SPAIN: Summary exports of Spanish oranges, 1929-30 to 1931-32 a/

Designation	Crop year totals		Seasonal to December 19	
	1929-30	1930-31	1930-31	1931-32
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
Exports by water from				
Valencia district.....	21,413,000	16,254,000	4,608,002	4,531,651
Exports by water from				
other districts.....	3,343,000	1,420,000	175,992	196,179
Exports by rail through				
Cerbere and Hendaya.....	9,360,000	7,871,000	253,260	323,803
Total exports.....	34,116,000	25,545,000	5,037,254	5,051,633

Converted from quintals to boxes of 70 pounds.

a/ Mandarins are included in the above figures. b/ Included with United Kingdom.

Italy: The crop of oranges and mandarins in Italy is now forecast at 7,600,000 boxes, which may be compared with the production of 8,502,000 boxes in 1930-31 and 9,189,000 in 1929-30. In the chief producing regions, the compartment of Calabria and the Island of Sicily, growing conditions have been poor and a small yield is in prospect. In the compartment of Campania,

however, the crop will exceed that of last year. Rains during late November arrived opportunely and brought the fruit up to normal size. The quality in Campania is considered good and blight attacks are less than last year.

Market conditions are causing some concern to the Italian growers for little foreign demand has been evidenced. Some shipments to Germany have resulted in losses. Prices in Southern Italy are low and, with export demand lacking, Northern Italy is at present looked upon as the best market.

Algeria: The present forecast of the production in Algeria places oranges at 925,000 boxes and mandarins at 775,000 boxes, making a total of 1,700,000 boxes. This is below the production of a year ago which was figured at 1,232,000 boxes of oranges and 834,000 boxes of mandarins.

According to Mr. Oscar S. Heizer, Consul at Algiers, the crop this season is below average and the quality is not high. In the west of the Colony the crop is satisfactory but deteriorates progressively eastward. The depredations of the Mediterranean fruit fly have been on a more extensive scale than usual. At the present time a high proportion of the oranges being marketed consists of blemished fruit. Because of these facts and since local consumption is on the increase a considerable decrease in exports is looked for over past years. On the average the exports may be placed at 173,000 boxes of oranges and 361,000 boxes of mandarins, mostly moving to France. Competition with Spanish citrus fruit on the French market has been severe and it has been expected that orange production will be expanded in Algeria only in those varieties which are suitable for supplying the growing consumption within the Colony itself.

Palestine: Production and exported oranges are estimated at considerably above last year according to Mr. Paul Knabenshue, Consul General at Jerusalem. The total production is thought to be 15 to 20 per cent over former years. Exports are forecast at 3,500,000 cases. These cases generally contain 144 oranges although in a few cases the number is as low as 130. This forecast of exports is greatly above previous years as shown by the totals of the past few years:

1927-28.....	2,372,189
1928-29.....	2,232,276
1929-30.....	2,695,960
1930-31.....	2,466,989
1931-32 (forecast).....	3,500,000

The local demand in Palestine is said to remain much the same from year to year and the increase this year will move largely into foreign markets. The major portion is taken by Great Britain and this year direct shipments to December 23 were 611,000 boxes as compared with 511,000 at the same date in 1930. Total shipments to the Continent were 173,000 boxes compared with 200,000 in 1930, according to the Empire Marketing Board, London.

Grapefruit exports from Palestine are this year expected to be some 70,000 cases, but if the present state of export continues, exports will reach 100,000 cases. This is likewise a substantial increase over previous years for 57,000 cases were exported last season and 17,000 in 1929-30.

